

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 ACDA-05 OES-03 OPIC-03 JUSE-00 FTC-01 /088 W
----- 107949

R 150625Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3839

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD KU

SUBJECT: BOYCOTT OF GENERAL ELECTRIC

REF: KUWAIT 3722

1. APPEARS GOK PROCEEDING WITH INITIAL STEPS WHICH COULD
RESULT IN BOYCOTT OF BOTH GE OF US AND GEC OF UK FOLLOWING
DECISIONS TAKEN AT RECENT ARAB BOYCOTT CONFERENCE IN CAIRO.
GE SOURCE AND ONE OF COMPANY'S PRINCIPAL AGENTS HHERE HAVE
INFORMED US COMPANY HAS RECEIVED WARNING NOTICE FROM GOK.
AGENT SAID GE REPS VISITED KUWAIT RECENTLY AND ARE EXPECTED
TO RETURN IN COUPLE OF WEEKS, HE HOPES WITH SATISFACTORY
REPLY TO WARNING LETTER. AGENT SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE
MATTER RESOLVED QUICKLY AND QUIETLY.

2. ACCORDING TO AGENT, FOR TIME BEING HE AND GE'S TWO OTHER
AGENTS HERE, EACH OF WHOM DEALS IN SEPARATE PRODUCT LINES, CAN
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CONTINUE TO IMPORT GE PRODUCTS FOR THEIR OWN INVENTORY, BUT

THEY CANNOT BID ON BEHALF GE ON GOVERNMENT TENDERS. GE'S
REP HANDLING AIR CONDITIONERS WAS NOT ALLOWED BID ON RECENT
AIR CONDITIONING TENDER, FOR EXAMPLE, AND ANOTHER
AGENT FEARS HE WILL NOT BE ABLE BID ON IMPORTANT TURBINE
TENDER EXPECTED END OF OCTOBER.

3. COMMENT: AS INDICATED REFTTEL GE'S TROUBLES MAY BE RELATED
TO POSSIBLE NUCLEAR PROJECT IN ISRAEL WHICH APPARENTLY MAY
ALSO INVOLVE WESTINGHOUSE AND BABCOCK AND WILCOX. GE ALSO
SUSPECT BECAUSE OF GE AIRCRAFT ENGINES ON ISRAELI MILITARY
AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, WE SUSPECT GOK BOYCOTT AUTHORITIES, LIKE
MANY OTHERS, MAY HAVE BEEN CONFUSED OVER WHICH "GENERAL
ELECTRIC COMPANY" AMERICAN OR BRITISH WAS MEANT TO BE BOYCOTTED
AND THEY THEREFORE SENT WARNING LETTERS TO BOTH. SIMILAR
CONFUSION LED TO BOYCOTT OF SEARS, ROEBUCK WHEN ARABS
CONFUSED US FIRM WITH BRITISH COMPANY CALLED "SEARS". AS OF
NOW, TO BE PRECISE, GE IS NOT RPT NOT BOYCOTTED, BUT ITS
STATUS IS UNDER A CLOUD THAT COULD DEPRIVE IT OF
SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATED WITH GOVERNMENT TENDERS.
STOLTZFUS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOYCOTTS, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUWAIT04195
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750357-0068
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751052/aaaabubb.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 KUWAIT 3722
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <27 JUN 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOYCOTT OF GENERAL ELECTRIC
TAGS: ETRD, KU, GENERAL ELECTRIC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006